

### **III. REMARKS**

In the Office Action, claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite for reasons set forth in the Action. Also, restriction of the claims into four categories of invention was made by the examiner, with requirement for the Applicant to elect one of the groups of claims for prosecution.

Applicant hereby elects for prosecution the claims 1-15 of Group I, drawn to the sorting of the occluded objects, classified in class 345, subclass 421.

The remaining claims 16-26 are withdrawn from prosecution, and may become the subjects of divisional applications.

With respect to the elected claims 1-15, various ones of these claims are amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112. In claim 1, amendment has been made in steps d-f by replacing "can potentially" with "has the potential to". This amendment is believed to provide further clarification of the claims because, in the practice of the invention, it is understood that a specific triangle may not occlude an unprocessed triangle, depending on the shape of the object being imaged and the location of the strip being created. However, that specific triangle has the potential to occlude the unprocessed triangle if the location of the strip were shifted relative to the object or if there were a change in the shape of the object.

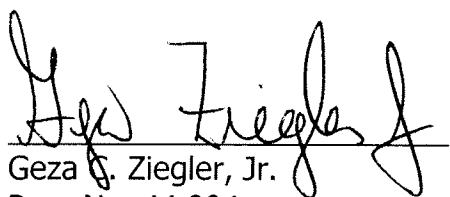
In addition, further clarifying amendments provide that the "selected triangle" is replaced with "selected neighboring triangle" so as to avoid confusion with the triangle selected in step b). In claim 3, "other, still unprocessed, triangles" is replaced with "other ones of the unprocessed triangles" to clarify the claim. Claim 4 is amended similarly to claim 1. In claim 8, the clauses with "such as" have been deleted. In claim 12, step s), the wording "the strip" is replaced with "respective ones of the triangle strips". These amendments are believed to maintain conformance with the teachings of the specification, and are believed to clarify the points raised by the examiner.

The non-elected (withdrawn) claims have not been amended in this response.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the elected claims now present in the application set forth the invention clearly, and are ready for an Action on the merits. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



Geza S. Ziegler, Jr.  
Reg. No. 44,004

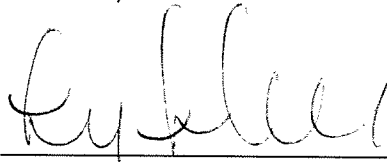
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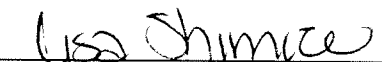
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